

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR NORMA ANDERSON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I occasionally use this forum to acknowledge the contributions my fellow Coloradans make on behalf of Colorado and our country. Today, I rise to commend the service of just such a person, my former colleague, State Senator Norma Anderson.

Last month, Senator Anderson announced her retirement from the Colorado State Senate after nearly 20 years of uninterrupted service as a legislator. Both Democrats and Republicans lauded her record, and I wanted to lend my name to her long list of unabashed admirers. While we have served in different political parties and held separate offices in the public arena, I have always admired Norma Anderson's direct and honest approach to public service. She is the kind of person who speaks her mind, knows the rules, respects the needs of her constituents and above all, she is the kind of leader who is not afraid to let the chips fall after making a decision. Norma has never suffered fools and she is not one to be intimidated. In my brief service in the Colorado General Assembly I came to deeply respect her judgment; I appreciated her way of dealing with colleagues, and I still consider her a friend.

A respected Denver Post columnist, Diane Carman, has called her "an old-fashioned Republican with a sharp tongue, impeccable taste and a stubborn independent streak." I don't believe I can improve on this description of Norma except to add that she has always struck me as a formidable and principled woman, and her record of accomplishment and service to Colorado has few equals.

[From the Denver Post, Jan. 4, 1906]

SENATOR WIELDED GRACE, INDEPENDENCE
(By Diane Carman)

She's an old-fashioned Republican with a sharp tongue, impeccable taste and a stubborn independent streak.

In a lot of ways, that explains it all.

Norma Anderson retired Tuesday after 19 years in the Colorado legislature, saying only, "It's the right thing for me at this time."

She's not sick, the vibrant 73-year-old said. She's not angry or frustrated or bored. She's simply finished.

The fact that a successor to her Senate seat will be appointed under a Republican governor and will have the edge of incumbency in the next election surely must have crossed her mind, though, as well as the inescapable reality that with the Republicans in the minority again this session, she wouldn't be wielding any gavels in the last months of her term-limited legislative career.

Still, she exited gracefully with a subtle nod to partisan interests, a private party for her supporters and a firm commitment to personal priorities.

No news conferences with TV cameras trained on her face. No razzmatazz.

It was pure Norma, her ego in check.

Many times over the years, she has been on the short lists to run for the U.S. Congress, for governor or for other statewide offices. She never caught the fever.

"At one time I was thinking about secretary of state. I sat down with Donetta Davidson: We talked a little bit, and I just said, 'You do it, Donetta.'"

Being a state legislator was enough, she said, "I never had any desire to do anything else."

Not that it's been all bill-signing galas and warm accolades.

Anderson is known for her ability to irritate her fellow lawmakers, maybe especially those in her own party.

In the 1990s, when Colorado Republicans started leaning decidedly far to the right, Anderson remained a moderate—and a sometimes exasperating one at that.

In one memorable stand against the party juggernaut, she voted against a bill to outlaw same-sex marriage. In another, she opposed a bill to require students to say the Pledge of Allegiance in schools.

She wasn't being obstinate, she said, she just didn't believe the government should be messing around in people's personal lives or requiring people to repeat pledges. She'd done her homework, she said, and it didn't seem right.

She accepts credit for marshaling support for dozens of bills over the years, for establishing the state departments of transportation and human services, and for breaking untold barriers that kept women out of legislative leadership positions for decades.

There are a few episodes she doesn't recall fondly, however, and one of them was the infamous midnight gerrymander.

Anderson played a crucial role in slamming through the Republican redistricting scheme in the last three days of the 2003 legislative session, though she was clearly ambivalent about it.

Sure, her expertise with Senate rules and circumventing them was critical to passage of the last minute bills, and she presided over most of the chaotic sessions. But she was not happy about it.

In the midst of the nasty political uproar, she even declined to return a call from Bush adviser Karl Rove, who was either the mastermind of the ham-handed strategy or simply an interested observer, depending on whose spin you believe.

That may have been her proudest moment in the whole mess.

"It was pretty common knowledge that I had concerns," Anderson told me back then, "but I was elected to lead my caucus, and that's what I did."

Months later, when the state Supreme Court threw out the redistricting plan and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the Republicans' appeal, she didn't join the party bigs in fulminating about judicial overreach and legislating from the bench. She kept quiet.

She respected the process. She believed in the democratic system. And if some folks think that's being stubbornly independent, she's OK with that.

In a lot of ways, that explains it all.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
EFFORTS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to mark the 77th anniversary of his birth on January 15, 1929.

History is indeed made up of significant events which shape our future and outstanding leaders who influence our destiny. Martin Luther King, Jr. has had numerous historic moments in the struggle for civil rights that have been used to identify him—prime mover of the Montgomery bus boycott, keynote speaker at the March on Washington, youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

But in retrospect, Mr. Speaker the single events are less important than the fact that King, and his policy of nonviolent protest, was the dominant force in the civil rights movement during its decade of greatest achievement, from 1957 to 1968.

Born on January 15, 1929, a son was born to the Reverend and Mrs. Martin Luther King in an upstairs bedroom of 501 Auburn Avenue, in Atlanta, GA. The couple named their first son after Rev. King, but he was simply called "M.L." by the family.

Mr. Speaker, during the next 12 years, this fine two story Victorian home is where M.L. would live with his parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and their boarders. It was in these surroundings of home, church and neighborhood that M.L. experienced his childhood. Here, M.L. learned about family and Christian love, segregation in the days of "Jim Crow" laws, diligence and tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was undoubtedly a vital figure of the modern era. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life through his courage and selfless devotion. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this Nation and around the world.

Dr. King's concept of "somebodiness," which symbolized the celebration of human worth and the conquest of subjugation, gave African-Americans and all people hope and a sense of dignity.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate as well the timeless values he taught us through his example—the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, let there be no misunderstanding that the King holiday honors the life and contributions of America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality, the leader who not only dreamed of a color-blind society, but who also led a movement that achieved historic reforms to help make it a reality.

It is a day of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing. No other day of the year brings so many peoples from different cultural backgrounds together in such a vibrant spirit of brother and sisterhood. Whether you are African-American, Hispanic or Native American, whether you are Caucasian or Asian-American, you are part of the great dream Martin Luther King, Jr. had for America. This is not just an African-American holiday; it is a peoples' holiday. And it is the young people of all races and religions who hold the keys to the fulfillment of his dream.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge all Americans by making your personal commitment to serve humanity with the vibrant spirit of unconditional love that was his greatest strength, and which empowered all of the great victories of his leadership.

May we who follow Martin now pledge to serve humanity, promote his teachings and carry forward his legacy into the 21st century.

We honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. because he showed us the way to mend those broken fences and to move on in building this land rather than destroying it. He led campaign after campaign in the streets of America and on to the governor's mansion—even to the White House—in an effort to secure change.

Mr. Speaker, today African-Americans have Federal legislation which provides access and legal protection in the areas of public accommodations, housing, voting rights, schools, and transportation. Thank you Dr. King for being the drum major who was able and ready to lead our Nation to greater heights through love and peace.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. SAMUELS

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert J. Samuels, this year's recipient of the Minority Health Leadership Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Minority Health.

Following his own battle with cancer, Bob dedicated his life to helping others in the fight against prostate cancer. He quickly became a passionate and dedicated advocate for men's health not only in Florida, but nationwide, and his visionary leadership has produced significant advances in beating back prostate cancer.

Bob is the founding chairman of the Florida Prostate Cancer Network (FPCN) and the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, as well as an advisor on a host of other national committees and task forces that are working to promote cancer research and treatment. In Congress and the Florida Legislature Bob has been a strong voice for increased funds for cancer research. He played a critical role in the passage of the Florida Prostate Cancer Aware-

ness Act and in the effort to secure a \$1 million federal grant to establish a prostate cancer training and research institute at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Numerous organizations, including the Florida Legislature, Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa and The Prostate Net, have honored Bob for his tireless efforts. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to thank Bob for his commitment to helping those struggling with cancer and thank the Department of Health and Human Services for recognizing Bob's work.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT SUSAN M. RAINONE UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Susan Rainone upon her retirement, and wish to thank her for her service to our country. Originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, MSgt Susan M. Rainone enlisted in the United States Air Force in January of 1986. After graduating from Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, she was sent to Chanute AFB, Illinois to attend the Airframe Repair Apprentice course.

In June 1986, A1C Rainone was assigned to the 6515th Field Maintenance Squadron at Edwards AFB, California. During her assignment at Edwards, she worked as an Airframe Repair Journeyman on a variety of airframes from the small A-37 to a much larger KC-135. In her second year in service, A1C Rainone competed and was selected for Senior Airmen Below the Zone, which allowed her to sew on the Senior Airman stripe six months early. In late 1988, she was promoted to the rank of Buck Sergeant and within the following six months she was notified of her selection to Staff Sergeant. In May, 1989 she completed the Training Systems Specialist course at Sheppard AFB, Texas and returned to Edwards AFB, to work in the Base Training office where she responsible for the training programs of the base. While at Edwards AFB, SSgt Rainone attended the Airman Leadership School and upon graduation was selected as a distinguished graduate, finishing in the top 10% of her class.

After being stationed at Edwards AFB for almost 9 years SSgt Rainone and was transferred to Osan Air Base in the Republic of South Korea. While at Osan, SSgt Rainone served as the Unit Training Manager for the 51st Transportation Squadron. During her tenure she nearly doubled the number of personnel enrolled in college courses. After her tour in Korea, SSgt Rainone was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona where she served as the Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the Scheduling Element. Here she was responsible for scheduling and updating training for over 3,500 aircraft maintenance personnel.

In September 1998 SSgt Rainone was promoted to Technical Sergeant. She applied and was selected for the position of Training Manager for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds." In April,

1999 TSgt Rainone relocated to Nellis AFB, Nevada where she was assigned as the Unit Safety Representative, a load team member responsible for 50,000 pounds of air show equipment. In October 1999, MSgt Rainone attended the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and again graduated as a distinguished graduate. TSgt was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in December 2002.

MSgt Rainone was reassigned to Vandenberg AFB, California April 2003. She was assigned to the 392nd Training Squadron as the Superintendent, Space and Missile Operations Training Development responsible for managing courses supporting the combat readiness of the nation's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile force. While at Vandenberg, MSgt Rainone completed the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy course by correspondence, earning the Academic Excellence Award by averaging 95% over five closed book exams. One year later, she was moved to Detachment 1, 345th Training Squadron, Naval Base Ventura County, where she is the Chief, Education and Training Programs and Course Manager for Vehicle and Equipment courses.

I wish to commend and thank MSgt Rainone for her leadership and dedication. She is truly a role model and deserves the many commendations and awards that she has received. I wish her a happy and relaxing retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT "SONNY" SMITH

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Sonny" Smith who was recently inducted into the Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame. Babe Ruth Baseball was started as a "grass roots" movement in the small, rural communities of Colorado. The town of Las Animas is no exception, and like most towns, the Babe Ruth program has flourished because of the efforts and actions of volunteers like Sonny who stepped up to the plate to serve others.

Sonny's involvement with Babe Ruth began around 1982. He was the District 2 Commissioner for 10 years and then became the Assistant State Commissioner for the 15 year-old Babe Ruth program. He has held that position from 1992 to the present time.

Sonny has not just been active in Babe Ruth in his community, but in other endeavors as well. He was the Las Animas Ball Association Vice President from 1978-1980. He served as a Las Animas City Councilman from 1982-1986 and was the chairman for the Parks and Swimming Pool committees. Sonny was a member of the Las Animas School Board from 1996-2000. He has been a member of the Bent County Recreation Committee from 1978 to the present time. He served on the St. Mary's Catholic Church Council from 1988-1992, and he has served as a football, baseball, softball, and basketball official from 1978 to the present time.

One of Sonny's most notable achievements was his work on the Ad-Hoc Committee for building the new baseball field in Las Animas from 1998-2004. This field has hosted many